

AIRPORT BEACON

A publication of  Muskegon County Airport

Fouth Quarter

4

2008

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Questions, Comments, Suggestions?

Submit to:

Muskegon County Airport
99 Sinclair Drive
Muskegon, MI 49441
Phone: 231-798-4596, Fax: 231-798-7728
homanpa@co.muskegon.mi.us

Parking

When you use Muskegon County Airport, you'll pay the lowest parking rate in West Michigan. Ample, convenient parking right outside the terminal building is provided for short and long term stays. The Airport accepts MasterCard, Visa, American Express, cash, and personal checks for payment.

Short Term Rates

Free for the first 10 minutes
\$1.00 per hour
\$10.00 maximum per day

Long Term Rates

Free for the first 10 minutes
\$1.00 per hour
\$4.00 maximum per day

You may also use the Honor Box method for payment when an attendant is not available. Fill out the envelope and drop your payment in the box, or take an envelope with you and mail your payment in at a more convenient time.



Turn Your Clocks Back One Hour
Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m.
on Sunday, November 2, 2008



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From the Airport Manager

Submitted by Marty Piette



As the saying goes, "when one door closes, another opens." Such is the case with the recent departure of Midwest Airlines. Midwest served Muskegon for nearly 20 years. Business for Midwest was good, and their service cut in Muskegon was in no way an indication of their local success. Midwest cut 40% of their flights nationwide, and we just happen to be one of the dozen airports on the receiving end of the cuts. On the bright side, the loss of Midwest may have been the deciding factor when the U.S. Department of Transportation decided recipients of this year's Small Community Air Service Development Grants. Of 66 applicants, only 16 communities received funds under the Grant, and Muskegon was awarded the second highest amount of \$650,000. The money will be used to mitigate the cost an airline faces when starting service between Muskegon and Chicago O'Hare. Already, two airlines have shown interest in establishing service to O'Hare. In addition to O'Hare, we are working on replacing air service to Milwaukee on a small regional carrier. As an airport operator, you hate to see an airline leave. But with a lot of hard work and a little luck, we may find that the loss of Midwest has opened several opportunities to improve air service.

As the end of the year approaches, I wish you all a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Runway 14/32 Update

Submitted by Marty Piette

We are about 4 weeks from completion of the runway project. Runway 14/32 has been completely milled and overlaid with a new asphalt porous friction course. It is now open at its new length of 6,100'. The Runway 32 Instrument Landing System (ILS) will not be fully FAA certified until January. Runway 6/24 is now closed so that the new, full parallel taxiway 'B' can be completed. This is the final phase of the project. The target completion date is November 14.



Photo taken October 16, 2008 by Danielle Weeter

Muskegon County Airport Receives \$650,000 to Attract Chicago Service

Submitted by Marty Piette

The U.S. Department of Transportation recently announced that Muskegon County Airport was one of sixteen recipients of grant funds under the 2008 Small Community Air Service Development Grant. Muskegon was awarded \$650,000 in federal dollars, to be matched with \$65,000 local dollars, providing a total of \$715,000. This money will be used to entice an airline to start scheduled air carrier service to Chicago O'Hare. The majority of the funds will be used as a revenue guarantee, mitigating the financial risk an airline would normally take when beginning service to a new city. Negotiations with two airlines have already begun, with the possibility of new service beginning as early as next spring. The next step is to rally local business support for the new service. After all, unless the airline has a sense that the community is willing to support the service, they will not start the service. The Muskegon Chamber of Commerce, acting as one voice for the business community, has been a key financial supporter of this recent endeavor. For this to succeed, we need to work together to raise the remaining local share of funds. Expect more information from the Airport and the Chamber in the coming weeks on how you can support the drive to bring O'Hare service back to Muskegon.

AIRPORT BEACON



Muskegon County Airport Police patch,
donated to the Airport by
Mr. Bernerd Langlois.

MKG History

Did you know that the Muskegon County Airport had its own police department?

Mr. Bernerd Langlois, a retired Muskegon police officer, was recently working on an album of police patches. He called the Airport to ask about our police department. After digging through our history files, the following information was found.

Back in April of 1968, Jack Hakes, who was the Airport Director at the time, and his men were sworn in as special deputies, or Public Safety Officers.

In January 1972, the Public Safety Officers were uniformed and the patch shown above was part of the uniform.

The Airport Public Safety Department was dissolved at the end of September 1982. The Norton Shores Police Department now provides law enforcement support to the Airport and its tenants.

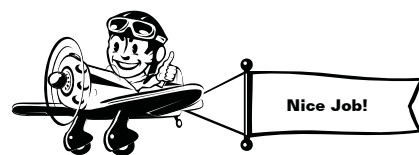
Congratulations!

Submitted by Marty Piette

The Federal Aviation Administration conducted its annual 14 CFR Part 139 Certification Inspection on October 14-17, 2008. The purpose of the inspection is to ensure the Airport is operating safely and in compliance of all Federal requirements contained in Federal Aviation Regulation Part 139 – Certification and Operation of Land Airports. The inspection covers every aspect of airport operations, including Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) and Maintenance personnel training records, airfield lighting, runway safety areas, airfield markings, and wildlife hazard management procedures.

I am pleased to inform you that Muskegon County Airport passed the 2008 inspection with a “Zero Discrepancy” report. This is the fourth consecutive year the Airport has passed the inspection with a perfect score. Prior to 2005, the Airport had never received a zero discrepancy report.

This year was particularly difficult with the construction project in progress during the inspector’s visit. Staff did an excellent job, not only keeping the Airport in compliance, but exceeding the inspector’s expectations. Please join me in congratulating the Airport Maintenance crew for a job well done.



United Way

Submitted by Pam Homan

Once again, Muskegon County employees did a terrific job with the Muskegon County United Way campaign.

Airport employees have consistently made generous pledges over the years to this very worthy organization and they have, once again, 100% participation among the employees.

We also received donations from The Brownstone Restaurant and Prestige Landscape that will be used for the County’s end of campaign raffle and online auction prizes.

Thank you to all of you who support the United Way of the Lakeshore. If you would like more information about United Way, please go to www.unitedwaylakeshore.org.

Employee Spotlight



Our “Angel Lady” is retiring after 20 years. Co-workers and travelers alike will miss all the special touches Gail Anderson brought to the airport. She remembered birthdays, baked goodies, decorated the booth for holidays and yes, even prayed for our passengers’ safe return.

Where did the name “Angel Lady” come from? Well, one day, a traveler came through the airport and said to Gail, “You look like you could use an angel.” She was wearing an angel pin on her cuff and gave it to her. Gail has never forgotten that and has carried on the tradition ever since.

As always, Gail is leaving the airport by giving something to all of us. Here are her words.

“Prosperity is so much more than having enough money to pay bills and buy new things. True prosperity is an abundance of all kinds of blessings: loving friends, harmonious relationships, true happiness, and inner peace.

I have a job to earn money or provide some service that someone is willing to pay for, but what can I do to earn happiness, joy, and peace? The good news is that I do not have to earn these blessings! God provides for my prosperity so that I am blessed by spiritually enriched living.

As I work with God, I open myself to a whole world of abundance. I greet others with a smile and a kind word, silently blessing them on their way.”

After a couple months of R & R, traveling around Michigan with her husband, Oscar, you just might see Gail as a greeter at one of the major stores in town, spreading joy to all those who see her. We wish this wonderful lady all the best!



Airport Contact Info

Airport Administration
231-798-4596, x-220

Airport Maintenance
231-798-4596, x-227

Air Travel Marketing Consultant
231-798-4596, x-262

Northwest Airlines
800-225-2525
Midwest Airlines
800-452-2022

AIRPORT BEACON

Welcome!



Landon Reid Piette

October 2, 2008

7 lbs. 8 oz.

20 1/2” long

Proud parents are
Marty and Kim Piette.
Landon also has a brother,
Preston, and a sister, Elliana.

Special Thanks

A special thank you goes out to Cathy Peterman, one of our TSA agents. Cathy purchased the beautiful “Welcome Home Soldiers” banner that is on display in the terminal building. Her generosity will help remind our military soldiers that we appreciate everything they do for us.



Employee of the Month

July 08.....Mel Wiseman, TSA
August 08 Reggie Harper, Midwest
September 08.....Gail Anderson, Airport